

Required and Recommended Components of Local Groundwater Management Plans

A. REQUIRED COMPONENTS

Recent amendments to Water Code Section 10750 *et seq.* resulting from the passage of SB1938 (Stats 2002, Ch 603) require new groundwater management plans prepared under that authority (commonly referred to as AB3030 Plans) to include the seven components below. In addition, plans prepared under other authorities shall include components 2 through 7 to be eligible for the award of funds administered by DWR for the construction of groundwater projects or groundwater quality projects. These requirements do not apply to funds authorized or appropriated prior to September 1, 2002, including funds from Proposition 13 of 2000, or to funds associated with the Local Groundwater Management Assistance Act of 2000 (Water Code Section 10795 *et seq.*).

1. Documentation that a written statement was provided to the public “describing the manner in which interested parties may participate in developing the groundwater management plan,” which may include appointing a technical advisory committee (Water Code § 10753.4 (b)).
2. Basin management objectives for the groundwater basin that is subject to the plan (Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(1)).
3. Components relating to the monitoring and management of groundwater levels, groundwater quality, inelastic land surface subsidence, and changes in surface flow and surface water quality that directly affect groundwater levels or quality or are caused by groundwater pumping (Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(1)).
4. A plan by the managing entity to “involve other agencies that enables the local agency to work cooperatively with other public entities whose service area or boundary overlies the groundwater basin” (Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(2)). A local agency includes “any local public agency that provides water service to all or a portion of its service area” (Water Code § 10752 (g)).
5. Adoption of monitoring protocols (Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(4)) for the components in Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(1). Monitoring protocols are not defined in the Water Code, but the section is interpreted to mean developing a monitoring program capable of tracking changes in conditions for the purpose of meeting management objectives.
6. A map showing the area of the groundwater basin, as defined by DWR Bulletin 118, with the area of the local agency subject to the plan as well as the boundaries of other local agencies that overlie the basin in which the agency is developing a groundwater management plan (Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(3)).

7. For local agencies not overlying groundwater basins, plans shall be prepared including the above listed components and using geologic and hydrologic principles appropriate to those areas (Water Code § 10753.7 (a)(5)).

B. RECOMMENDED COMPONENTS

In addition to the requirements of SB 1938, included in A above, it is recommended that the managing entity, a local agency or group of local agencies, include the additional components 1 through 7 below in a groundwater management plan. None of the suggested data reporting in the components below should be construed as recommending disclosure of information that is confidential under state law.

1. Establish an advisory committee of stakeholders and interested parties within the plan area that will help guide the development and implementation of the plan.
2. Describe the area to be managed under the plan, including:
 - a. The physical structure and characteristics of the aquifer system underlying the plan area in the context of the overall basin.
 - b. A summary of the availability of historical data including, but not limited to, the components in Section A3 above.
 - c. Issues of concern including, but not limited to, those related to the components in Section A3 above.
 - d. A general discussion of historical and projected water demands and supplies.
3. For each management objective, describe:
 - a. How meeting the management objective will contribute to a more reliable supply for long-term beneficial uses of groundwater in the plan area.
 - b. Existing or planned management actions to achieve management objectives.
4. Describe the plan monitoring program adopted under Section A5 above, including:
 - a. Map indicating the general locations of any applicable monitoring sites for groundwater levels, groundwater quality, subsidence stations, or stream gages.
 - b. A summary of monitoring sites indicating the type (groundwater level, groundwater quality, subsidence, stream gage) and frequency of monitoring. For groundwater level and groundwater quality monitoring wells, indicate the depth interval(s) or aquifer zone monitored and the type of well (public, irrigation, domestic, industrial, monitoring).

5. Describe any current or planned actions by the local managing entity to coordinate with other land use, zoning, or water management planning.
6. Provide for periodic report(s) summarizing groundwater basin conditions and groundwater management activities. The report(s), prepared annually or at other frequencies as determined by the local management entity, should include:
 - a. Summary of monitoring results with a discussion of historical trends.
 - b. Summary of management actions during the period covered by the report.
 - c. A discussion, supported by monitoring results, of whether management actions are achieving progress in meeting management objectives.
 - d. Summary of proposed management actions.
 - e. Summary of any plan component changes, including addition or modification of management objectives, during the period covered by the report.
7. Provide for the periodic re-evaluation of the entire plan by the managing entity.